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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 08/900,735 | 07/24/1997 | M. ALLEN NORTHRUP | 07043/015007 | 8433 |

26181 7590 04/15/2004

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| EXAMINER |
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SIEW, JEFFREY

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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1637

DATE MAILED: 04/15/2004

#23

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Interference

1. All claims are allowable. However, due to a potential interference, *ex parte* prosecution is SUSPENDED from the date of this letter. Applicant should make an inquiry as to the status of the application in the future.

CONCLUSION

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffrey Siew who can be reached at 571-272-0787. The e-mail address is Jeffrey.Siew@uspto.gov. However, the office cannot guarantee security through the e-mail system nor should official papers be transmitted through this route. The examiner is on flex-time schedule and can best be reached on weekdays from 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Benzion, can be reached on (571)272-0782.

Any inquiry of a general nature, matching or filed papers or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Tracey Johnson for Art Unit 1637 whose telephone number is (571)272-0534.

Art Unit: 1637

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Papers related to this application may be submitted to Group 1600 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Group 1600 via the PTO Fax Center located in Crystal Mall 1. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1989). The 1600 Tech Center FAX is (703)-872-9306.

April 7, 2004


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